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McKEESPORT CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Special Bulletin

VOLUME III. NUMBER 1 McKEESPORT PA., MAY 26, 1923

M'KEESPORTERS CHALLENGED

Johnstown's Citizens Enthusiastic Over Comprehensive City Plan and Accomplishments.

Johnstown's City Planning activities and accomplishment of a portion of its comprehensive plan, as outlined at the last Chamber of Commerce luncheon by Mr. Leo J. Buettner, Secretary of the Johnstown Commission, in his stereopticon address, serve as a mild challenge to McKeesport to do likewise.

Our Planning Commission and its engineering advisors are second to none in the state. Our ability, therefore, to not only duplicate but surpass the accomplishments of Johnstown and other cities will depend upon the support given our Commission by the McKeesport public. Chamber of Commerce members are, by the very nature of their selection, the leaders for all that is good and progressive in McKeesport.

Every member is, therefore, expected to do his share in popularizing our city plan and the recommendations of the Planning Commission. Public sentiment is readily swayed in the direction of a sound cause by serious minded, far-seeing leaders.

"Pull for your Home Town—or Pull Out."

"The true function of the Chamber of Commerce is to organize the membership man-power and reservoir of thought and experience into decision and action for the general welfare. The function of the Chamber is to mobilize, for the benefit of the community, the experience, thought and convictions of its membership, and then, after careful analysis and decision, to stimulate the members and the various organizations with which they are associated, to work along the lines decided until these objects are accomplished."—Dean W. H. Walker.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

SPEAKERS

ALLEN D. ALBERT
Paris, Ill.
Popular lecturer and economist
Former Pres. Rotary International

W. S. VAN DYKE
Pittsburgh Pa.
Vice Pres. Real Estate Trust Co.

TUESDAY, MAY 29
6:30 p. m.

Y. M. C. A. GYM

$1.50 per plate

Early Reservation will greatly facilitate the busy committeemen's work.

City Retailers Are Organized

Greater Co-operation Among Retail Interests for Improved Service to Public.

The newly created Board of Control of the Retail Merchants' Division of the Chamber of Commerce should, from the very democratic method of its election, be in a position to bring greater co-operation among the mercantile interests than ever before and lead to ever-improving merchandising service for McKeesport.

Every merchant was afforded the opportunity of voting by mail in both the primary and final election of the following men:

Leo J. Bachman, J. L. Beachy, Chas. E. Bradford, J. D. Evans, J. C. Helmstadter, J. S. Mack, J. D. O'Neil, Sr., Will Pfaff, Alex. Rankin, Adolph Schmidt, R. E. Stone.

PROGRESS MADE IN JEROME PLAN

Citizens Urged to Encourage Councilmen in Jerome St. and Fifth Ave. Improvement.

The Jerome street and Fifth avenue widening and extension project is progressing satisfactorily. The forty day delay causel by the repassage of ordinances for a portion of the route will not seriously retard progress upon the other sections. The failure of property owners to appear at hearings of the viewers is believed to have been caused by the attorneys who represent the property owners being unusually active in closing their court cases in Pittsburgh and therefore unable to appear at the Jerome street hearings. The closing of the courts within a week or ten days will doubtless relieve this condition.

The city has secured competent, expert representatives to protect the public's interest at the hearings and all points to an equitable valuation of benefits and damages.

By personally encouraging the local councilmen to continue the good work, much will be accomplished for this improvement. Selfish interests do not hesitate to express themselves to Council and Chamber of Commerce members, as self-delegated leaders and defenders of the public's interests, should voice their approval of such needed improvements. A word to the Councilmen will be particulary helpful at this time.

"There are so many new ideas advanced, so many things to do, that the Chamber of Commerce cannot devote vigorous or continued attention to all of the worthy causes suggested by its membership. But it can and does stay with and get behind the more important movements, and usually sees them through to completion It can work no faster than public opinion and the voluntary services of its members will permit."—Dean W. H. Walker.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Published periodically and issued from the Chamber of Commerce office, 502 Fifth Avenue, second floor.

Bell Phone 628 P. & A. 11

R. F. DULANY, Pres.

R. E. STONE, Vice President

WILL PFAFF, Vice President

HENRY FRIEDMAN, Treasurer

B. W. GRILLS, Managing Secretary

MAIN & CO., C. P. A's., Auditors

POLICY

Members are referred to the columns of the McKeesport Daily News for current Chamber of Commerce activities and reports where they are released as they occur. This bulletin, therefore, contains a brief summary of recent activities, together with editorial comment.

STATE BLUE SKY LAW PENDING

To Prevent Influx of Fraudulent and Highly Speculative Stock and Bond Offerings—Bill Needs Assistance.

The bly-sky legislation prepared and sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of the State as an assistance in turning from Pennsylvania the influx of fraudulent and highly speculative security offerings, is having its difficulties in the State legislature and members are urged to communicate to Representatives and Senators of their acquaintance their desire for its speedy passage.

Thousands of dollars leave the pockets of the inexperienced McKeesport investors every month—never to return. If saved or profitably spent, this money would assure more prosperous and better satisfied citizens and would mean much to McKeesport's future citizens.

Boost the Clark Bill—Senate No. 101.

"Men are like corks. Some will pop and others have to be drawn out. It depends on the stuff they have in them."

CITY PLAN OPEN FOR INSPECTION

Everybody Urged to Become Familiar With Improvements Proposed for All Parts of the City.

The comprehensive City Plan of McKeesport, as prepared under the direction of the City Planning Commission and edited by Mr. A. B. Haldeman, Chief of the Division of City Planning of the Bureau of Municipalities, is available at the Chamber of Commerce rooms for inspection by the public.

This 155-page report contains many charts, graphs, maps, and photographs clearly bringing out the proposed improvements considered necessary for the proper development and expansion of McKeesport.

Every member should become familiar with this plan as in it lie the destinies of this, the city of his nativity or adoption.

ARBITRATION NOW OFFERED

Chamber Committee Now Ready With Facilities for Settling Commercial Disputes.

Commercial disputes between business men may now be settled by arbitration under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce committee on arbitration headed by Mr. Walter S. Altmeyer. Complete rules and regulations governing the procedure are now available in pamphlet form to all interested.

The reason for the growing popularity of arbitration throughout the country and the advantages claimed over court procedure are the saving of time and money, the avoidance of non-consequential technicalities, the dispensing of justice by disinterested but informed parties who are chosen for their technical knowledge of the subject under dispute. Arbitration frequently assists the parties to discover the real causes of their doubts and differences and to reach an amicable adjustment upon a mutually satisfactory basis before the contestants become embittered and consequently, farther from a settlement.

Annual Report of the United States Chamber

The annual report of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, issued May 1, 1923, features:

The active participation of the organization in the railroad and the coal strikes in protecting the public's interests.

The new home of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States is well on its way toward completion.

Their efforts in behalf of a Merchant Marine.

The promotion of railroad, waterway and transportation conference.

The determining of the business man's viewpoint on Federal taxation policies, tariff principles and national obligations to veterans of the World War.

The encouraging of par remittance for checks.

Providing plans and facilities for the use of commercial arbitration throughout the United States.

The national study of our problems of education.

Activity in connection with the Conference on the Limitation of Armaments.

Participation in the affairs of the International Chamber of Commerce.

The establishment of sound-working policies for trade associations.

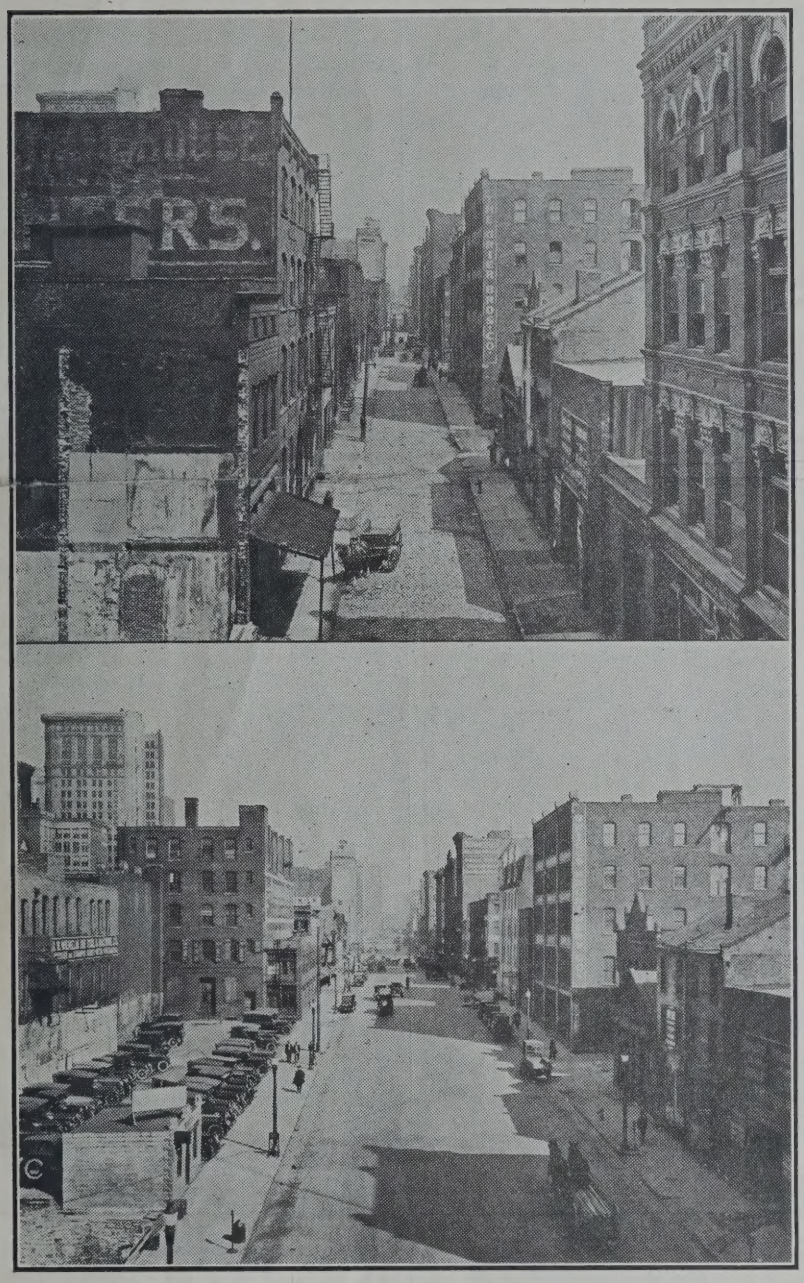
The protection of industry against government control.

Secretary of War Only Obstacle in Way of Duquesne Bridge

The Cliff Street-Duquesne Bridge project has been most successfully promoted to the limit of possibilities. All of the eight interested corporations are ready for work on the bridge to be begun but the Secretary of War has held up the work until raising of the Allegheny River bridges is more nearly assured.

"A Chamber of Commerce must choose carefully the movements that it will get behind because it can only give vigorous attention to a limited number at one time, and usually must sustain its efforts a number of years in order to finish what it has begun."—Dean W. H. Walker.

YES! IT HAS BEEN DONE



Upper Picture -- Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, June, 1920

Lower Picture -- Boulevard of the Allies (Second Avenue), Pittsburgh
As it appears today

Buy Your Railroad Tickets in McKeesport

By purchasing all ten-trip, monthly and student tickets at the local railway offices rather than at other points, you not only approve McKeesport's showing in the reports sent to headquarters but you help to create valuable arguments for the use of your committee when they approach railroad officials with requests for improved schedules, better station facilities, etc.

"Sad, indeed, is the plight of the man who has so much business that he cannot give some little time to the community that makes his business possible."

NEW HOTEL PROJECT NOW SMOLDERING

Increased Community Interest and Completion of Jerome St. Project Awaited.

Tentative plans for a new hotel promotion are being held in abeyance by the new hotel investigation committee subject to the Jerome street improvement progress and the interest shown by the members and the community in a new hotel from an investment standpoint.

With the completion of the Jerome street improvement, the committee belives a community hotel will be assured. The committee is further of the opinion that with or without the Jerome street improvement, a new and modern hotel, such as cities all about us have constructed, will pay well on the investment and tend to metropolitanize McKeesport.

Why I Pay My Chamber Of Commerce Dues

Because I have pledged to do my part toward the support of the organization.

Because the other man pays his.

Because the more promptly I pay my dues the better results I can look for.

Because we are paying the Secretary to devote his time to promote the welfare of our city, and not as a collector.

Because I do not wish to accept community welfare gratuitously or as charity.

Because the Chamber of Commerce is the mainspring in making our city what we want it to be.

Because the Chamber of Commerce is active, alive, and doing things to make our city a better place in which to live and do business.

Because I owe it to myself, my family, and my business to pay my dues.

Because the Chamber of Commerce needs it.

Because McKeesport needs the Chamber of Commerce.

A certain percentage of every dollar you spend at home goes to the upbuilding of your city. When you buy elsewhere, you help build some other city.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Announced By Good Roads Committee

White Oak Level road—permanent top—completed by June 10th.

Foster road—widening, eliminating bad intersection, permanent top—completed by July 4th.

Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard, the section in Dravosburg— contract will be let and work started by June 10th.

Carson street from the city line to Thirtieth street—City of Pittsburgh letting contract for repaving.

Port Vue road—resurfaced—work to be started about June 10th.

Boston and Greenock road—resurfaced—work to be stared about Jue 10th.

Boston road—plans under way for the reconstruction and straightening.

Other roads in the vicinity, though not specifically scheduled, to be worked on in near future.

Valuable Collection of Photographs of City For Use of Citizens

In addition to securing photographs in connection with needed improvements recommended by the City Planning Commission, the photographic and publicity committee is assembling and recording photographs and interesting views of McKeesport in order that those desiring to issue publications about McKeesport may be supplied with the best pictorial information available. Through the general use of these photographs the committee hopes to not only advertise McKeesport to the outside world but to arouse civic pride and community appreciation within our city limits.

The Board of Directors and many Chamber members are acting in a most brotherly manner in aiding Turtle Creek in its endeavors to secure a new Lincoln Highway bridge into that borough.

Report on Planning Activities of Other Penna. Cities

A 14-page report giving the important steps taken by 26 communities toward bringing about metropolitan districts, together with the basic reasons underlying the consolidations in each case and the results and effects of political intergration in these communities, was recently supplied Senator Mansfield through the information service afforded by the local Chamber of Commerce.

Members desiring special reports for the study of local community problems, are urged to avail themselves of this service.

The legally establishing of a proper system of streets for Allentown is occupying much of the attention of the Allentown Planning Commission at this time and is reported to have the support of Mayor and Council. The Commission is contending for an 80 feet width of Union Boulevard, that being the best width for the economic service of a large and constant volume of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The Altoona Planning Commission is struggling hard to secure a comprehensive city plan similar to the one McKeesport now has and also for the improvement of their street system.

Five tracts of land have recently been acquired by the Bethlehem Planning Commission for use as public parks. City Plans have been prepared by a specialist in city planning for the twin cities of Bethlehem and Allentown which may result in a metropolitan city of the future, encompassing the entire region.

The Easton Planning Commission is considering the closer and more convenient linking up of the sections of the city north and south of the Lehigh by a high level bridge.

The newly organized Erie Commission has not only the support but the active urging of municipal officials in performing the duties conferred upon it by law. The Planning Commission is now striving for the creation of a shade tree commission and the position of city forester.

The Johnstown Planning Commission has already commenced the preparation of Zoning regulations and a districting plan as provided for in a recent act of assembly.

The Monongahela City Commission, now a little more than a year old, has been particularly active in obtaining property for park and playground purposes.

The Reading Commission is considering important problems of building restrictions in residential sections and the matter of street grades.

The Sharon Planning Commission has been the means of preventing the acceptance of land sub-division containing street lay-outs which would in the future work seriously against the best interests of Sharon.

The Williamsport Planning Commission is endeavoring to clear the main business streets of poles and overhead wires. Allentown has set the pace in this State for this phase of city planning by removing from Hamilton street all obstructions, except ornamental street lights. Even the trolley poles are gone and the overhead wires of the trolley lines are supported by eye-bolts set in the walls of the buildings fronting on the street.

Planning Commissions are quite generally favoring a bill recently introduced in the general assembly providing for the more generous financing of the work of the commissions, fixing penalties for violations and placing a further check upon the making and recording sub-divisions without proper approval of the City's Planning Commission.

Local Delegates To U. S. Chamber Report Optimism

The local Chamber was ably represented at the convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States by Mr. J. S. Mack, acting as National Councilor, and Mr. W. C. Shaw, as delegate.

Unusual optimism as to the business outlook was reported and the present period of prosperity declared to be a sound one in no way tainted with inflation. Immigration, the foreign situation and transportation were declared to include the outstanding commercial and industrial issues for the ensuing year and well defined policies on these subjects were established at the convention which when reflected through the twelve hundred member organizations will do much toward swaying public sentiment in favor of these most progressive views.

Value Received

Membership in the Chamber of Commerce costs $25 a year, yet this buys between $400 and $500 worth of organized and effective community service. Does anyone know of any other organization that renders to the community $400 worth of time for each $25 spent? Furthermore, this expenditure of time and money is not in competition with any other community project, but in co-operation will all worthy movements for the benefit of the McKeesport district.